(c) While no study has been considered necessary so far, the combat skills of officers in the Army, both Short Service and Regular Commissioned are as per desired standards.

Review of extra pension to gallantry awardees

885. SHRI HARISH RAWAT:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) does the Government provide any extra pension or allowance to the gallantry award winning officers and soldiers and if so, the details thereof;

(b) how often are such extra pension/allowances to the gallantry awardees reviewed;

(c) has Government taken cognizance of the plight of a retired Lt. Colonel as reported in the media;

(d) whether it is a fact that no action has been taken on the representations made by the said Lt. Colonel in past and if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) what urgent steps are being taken to address his grievances in particular and those of other awardees?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (e) The Government provides monthly monetary allowances to the gallantry award winning officers and soldiers. The existing rates of the allowances sanctioned for these gallantry awards are as under:—

1.	Param Vir Chakra		Rs. 1500/-
2.	Ashoka Chakra	—	Rs. 1400/-
3.	Maha Vir Chakra		Rs. 1200/-
4.	Kirti Chakra	—	Rs. 1050/-
5.	Vir Chakra		Rs. 850/-
6.	Shaurya Chakra	—	Rs. 750/-
7.	Sena/Nao Sena/Vayu Sena Medal (Gallantry)	—	Rs. 250A

Note: Each Bar to the award will carry the same amount of monetary allowance as admissible to the original award.

The rates of these allowances are revised from time to time. The last such revision was made with effect from 1.2.1999. Monetary allowances were attached with Sena Medal/Nao Sena Medal/Vayu Sena Medal (Gallantry) for the first time with effect from 1.2.1999.

The disposal of the representations/grievances of the gallantry awardees and their families is a continuous process within the Ministry of Defence by coordinating with the concerned authorities for timely redressal of their grievances.

Sharing of classified information through Orkut

886. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL:
SHRI AMAR SINGH:
SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that hundreds of young army officers are sharing information about their military training, posting, cell-phone numbers and even operational details through "Orkut" a social networking site operated by Google;